

Message Text

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ORIGIN CU-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 USIA-06 /018 R

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P R 061737Z JAN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN
AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, SCUL

SUBJECT: FESTAC UPDATE

REF: STATE 312073

1. PARTICIPANT PASSPORTS AND VISAS: US ZONAL COMMITTEE
STAFFER SAID JANUARY 4 THAT WHILE EACH PARTICIPANT
RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING OWN PASSPORT, PARTICIPANTS HAD
BEEN NOTIFIED TO SEND VALID PASSPORTS TO ZONAL COMMITTEE
OFFICE IN WASHINGTON BY END OF THIS WEEK. COMMITTEE WOULD
THEN OBTAIN VISAS IN BULK. APPARENTLY ONLY FEW PASSPORTS
NOW IN ZONAL COMMITTEE HAND.

2. ADVANCE LIST OF PARTICIPANTS: DEPARTMENT HOPES TO
OBTAIN BEFORE WEEK'S END ADVANCE LIST OF PARTICIPANTS WHO
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ARE SCHEDULED TO DEPART NEW YORK FOR LAGOS JANUARY 12.
DONALDSON SAYS HE OVERBOOKED FLIGHT TO INSURE THAT 252
WILL BE ABOARD AS PROMISED.

3. CHARTER ARRANGEMENTS: OMNI GROUP TRAVEL SERVICE OF
SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN, CONFIRMED THAT WHILE DONALDSON
AND THE ZONAL COMMITTEE HAD "SPOKEN FOR" (BUT NOT COM-

MITTED FUNDS FOR) A TOTAL OF FOUR CHARTER AIRCRAFT, OGTS HAS RECEIVED A CONTRACT AND COMMITMENT OF FUNDS (I.E. THE USG GTR) FOR ONLY ONE AIRCRAFT. MRS. BETTY WOODS OF OGTS SAID IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN AVAILABILITY OF ANY/OR ALL THE OTHER THREE AIRCRAFT FOR FESTAC, CONTRACT(S) FOR THE AIRCRAFT WOULD HAVE TO BE SIGNED BY JANUARY 6. OGTS REPORTED JANUARY 5 THAT DONALDSON HAD SIGNED CONTRACT SAME DAY FOR TOTAL TWO AIRCRAFT AT COST OF DOLS 229,668.98. USG GTR FOR DOLS 120,000 WAS ONLY DEPOSIT RECEIVED. DONALDSON NOW OBLIGATED TO COME UP WITH REMAINING AMOUNT TO OGTS WITHIN SEVEN DAYS. SECOND AIRCRAFT WOULD DEPART CHICAGO VIA NEW YORK TO LAGOS JANUARY 26. THIS SECOND GROUP OF PARTICIPANTS THEN SCHEDULED TO DEPART LAGOS FEBRUARY 12.

4. SHIPMENT OF ART OBJECTS: DONALDSON HAS SAID ZONAL COMMITTEE HAS SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO INSURE AND SHIP ART OBJECTS ONE-WAY ONLY TO FESTAC. TO ENSURE THAT ART WORKS OF AMERICAN ARTISTS REACH LAGOS FOR FESTAC AND CAN BE RETURNED TO US, USIA HAS AGREED TO EXPEND MAXIMUM DOLS 14,000 FOR RETURN SHIPMENT AND INSURANCE OF ART OBJECTS.

5. INVITATIONS TO FESTAC: AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE WILL NOT RPT NOT BE ABLE ATTEND FESTAC. DEPARTMENT FEELS FIRST SUBSTANTIVE CONTACT AFTER JANUARY 20 WITH FMG SHOULD NOT TAKE PLACE WITHIN FESTAC CONTEXT. WHETHER ASST SECY RICHARDSON WILL BE ABLE TO ACCEPT FESTAC INVITATION YET TO BE DETERMINED. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN REQUESTING NIGERIAN EMBASSY TO IDENTIFY AMERICANS INVITED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO FESTAC WHO ARE NOT PART OF THE ADMINISTRATION. EMBASSY PROMISED JANUARY 3 TO PROVIDE COMPLETE LIST AND PROPOSED THAT DEPARTMENT HELP DETERMINE WHO PLANS TO ACCEPT. TO OUR SURPRISE, NIGERIAN EMBASSY THEN SENT US THIRTEEN ORIGINAL INVITATIONS AND REQUESTED US TO DELIVER THEM WHICH WE ARE NOW DOING. INVITATIONS ARE ADDRESSED TO SAME LIST OF THIRTEEN CONTAINED LAGOS 14130 EXCEPT MAYOR MAYNARD JACKSON IS NOT RPT NOT INCLUDED, AND PROF. PAUL ENGLE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA IS RPT IS INCLUDED. ALSO MR. CHARLES BEAR (AS WELL AS MR. MELVIN SCOTT) ARE IDENTIFIED AS BEING WITH TIME MAGAZINE, AND CONGRESSMAN CHARLES RANGEL S RPT IS INVITED VICE RPT VICE MR. CHARLES RANDALL (SIC) OF TIME MAGAZINE.

6. NIGERIAN VISAS: NIGERIAN EMBASSY VISA OFFICER TOLD DEPARTMENT JANUARY 5 THAT EMBASSY HAS NOT YET RECEIVED ANY APPLICATION FROM FESTAC PERFORMERS BUT EXPECTED APPLICATIONS TO BEGIN ARRIVING SOON IN BATCHES FROM THE HAZ. EMBASSY TO DATE ISSUED "LESS THAN THIRTY" VISAS TO

ALL OTHER CATEGORIES OF AMERICANS INDICATING THEIR INTENTION TO ATTEND FESTAC.

7. TELEVISION COVERAGE: WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE OF GENERAL TELEPHONE AND ELECTRONICS CORPORATION (GTE) PHONED DEPARTMENT DECEMBER 28 TO CARRY OUT PROMISE MADE WEEK BEFORE TO DIRECTOR OF NIGERIAN EXTERNAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS (NET) BY GTE GROUP WHO MET WITH HIM. NET DIRECTOR TOLD THEM THAT OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES OF FESTAC WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FREE TO FOREIGN TV NETWORKS AND EXPRESSED PROFOUND DISAPPOINTMENT THAT NO US NETWORK HAD EITHER ACCEPTED THIS OFFER OR ARRANGED TO DO OWN PROGRAMMING DURING FESTAC. (GTE REP ASSUMED THAT FREE OFFER IMPLIED THAT NIGERIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION WOULD DO PROGRAM AND THAT NET WOULD PAY TO TRANSMIT IT VIA SATELLITE TO RECEIVING POINT IN EACH INTERESTED COUNTRY.) DEPARTMENT HAS ASKED NIGERIAN EMBOFF RESPONSIBLE FOR FESTAC IF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HE AWARE OF OFFER MADE TO US NETWORKS. HE WAS NOT BUT AGREED LOOK INTO IT. WE TOLD HIM ANY ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE FOR FMG TO MAKE DIRECTLY WITH NETWORKS, BUT, TO HELP INSURE INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS OF FESTAC, WE WOULD BE WILLING ASSIST IF HE WISHED TO CALL ON US. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD, AND WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING MORE FROM HIM.

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: OEXC, SCUL, NI, US, FESTAC
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